May 2026 Newsletter

First Church of God

Our Mission: Bringing Lives Into Focus with Christ

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If you have an item to put in the newsletter, please submit it to Susie Hoffman by the 3rd. Sunday of the month. Susie's email address is

Pastor's Meditation May 2026

A Happy Mother's Day to all the moms out there. As I was reflecting on Mother's Day this year, my mind went back to a classroom full of second graders—pencils tapping, feet swinging under desks—as their teacher introduced a lesson on magnets. When test day came, one question seemed simple enough: "My name has 6 letters. The first one is 'm.' I pick up things. What am I?" When she began grading, she couldn't help but smile—nearly half the class didn't write "magnet." They wrote "mother."

They weren't wrong, were they? Mothers really do pick up things—backpacks by the door, dishes on the counter, socks that somehow never make it to the hamper, and pieces of life that fall apart in a child's hands. But moms are far more than human magnets or household managers. Scripture shows us that motherhood carries a higher calling—one that reaches beyond the daily mess and into the shaping of hearts.

A Godly mother loves her family and helps create an atmosphere where each person finds acceptance, security, and understanding. She offers a listening ear when words are hard to find, a comforting voice when fears feel big, a warm hug when tears come quickly, and a steady presence when life feels unsteady. And for the mother who follows Jesus, her deepest joy is not just raising children who "do well," but guiding them to know, trust, and love Jesus as their Savior. Godly mothers not only bring us up—they help bring us to God.

Proverbs 31:26-31 gives us a picture of a Godly mother.
New International Version (NIV) 26 She speaks with wisdom,
and faithful instruction is on her tongue.
27 She watches over the affairs of her household
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
28 Her children arise and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praises her:
29 "Many women do noble things,
but you surpass them all."
30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
31 Honor her for all that her hands have done,
and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

Our moms deserve to be honored—not just on one day in May, but every day. And that recognition should involve more than words. Let it be shown in respect, thoughtfulness, and loving deeds. Make it a point to let your mother, or the mother of your children, know how much you love and appreciate her—today, and throughout the year. God has given us a great blessing in our mothers.

Church Garage Sale

Church garage sale, & Lunch Stand

May 15 9am-4pm and May 16, 9am-? This is a great opportunity to go through your house and donate items you no longer use! Please no car seats, strollers, anything that may have a recall, electronics, TV's or particle board furniture. Please put your donations in the Blue Sunday School Room (a sign is on the door) Profits from the Lunch stand will go to Lifewise–Lakota. Food donations and help with running the lunch stand are needed. Signup sheets are on the clipboards.

Rainforest Falls

VBS—July 19-23. 6-8:15pm

At Rainforest Falls, kids explore the nature of God! Rainforest Falls is filled with awesome Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, and touch! Hands-on science experiments, team-building games, unforgettable Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life—Register your youth on the church website by June 19, for a free T-shirt!

—> Help is needed for this week. Signup sheets are on the clipboards soon.

Safety Team

The Q2 Safety Team Schedule was set out via the text thread and a copy was also hung in our locker.

Please remember, If you have a conflict, please try to find a substitute/trade. If you cannot, please let Tim know. The Q3 Schedule will be out soon.

Team members interested in a firearms practice session should sign up. The sign-up sheets are on the clipboards. The date is Sunday June 14th right after 2nd service.

Yacht Club

Next breakfast will be on Saturday, May 16, at 8:30 AM at Tim's house. We will debrief the ladies' dinner and discuss projects for our church workday.

The church workday will be on Saturday, June 13. We will start with breakfast at 8:00 AM at the church and begin working on the project list as soon as possible. We plan to finish around 1:00–2:00 PM. More details will be shared after the May breakfast.

Men's Retreat

Men mark your calendars, This years retreat will be the weekend of September 25-27.

Ladies Appreciation Dinner

The 2026 Ladies appreciation Dinner will be on Saturday, May 9th.

See the clipboards for information and details.

Dinner service will begin at 5:30pm

The Men have a great menu and entertainment planned for the ladies of our Church, our Community, and our Families!

Save the date for the women's retreat this year.

The retreat will be October 23-25 at Beulah Beach - 6101 W. Lake Road, Vermillion OH. Registration is opening on May 1st.

Spaghetti Lunch—Thank you!

There isn't any event, here at church, that is possible without the church family support and that support was evident, once again, for the Spaghetti Lunch on 4/26/26! The Women's Breakfast Club served 50 dine-in meals and 56 take-out meals! Donations amounted to a generous $1150 of which $1000 will be given to support a new Lakota program "Students Get In Free" which, in turn, will benefit ALL students (including the visiting teams) attending Lakota home sporting events! Whatever part you played in making the day a success, thank you so much!! Many thanks, as well, to Pizza Hut/Randy Wilhelm and Frobose Meats for a wonderful donation/discount of marinara sauce, garlic bread and ground beef! God is so good to us!! Baked spaghetti was a hit...it will stay on the menu!

Women's Breakfast Club-

May 30- breakfast @ church, 9am!

1 Corinthians 13:1–13 (ESV)

1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but
have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.
2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all
mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as
to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.
3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to
be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

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4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast;
it is not arrogant
5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irrita-
ble or resentful;
6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the
truth.
7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all
things, endures all things.

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8 Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass
away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge,
it will pass away.
9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part,
10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass
away.
11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like
a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I
gave up childish ways.
12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to
face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as
I have been fully known.
13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but
the greatest of these is love.

His: *By Robert Theis*

This month, my wife decided we would talk about 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and cover the topic of "love." Part of the enjoyment of these devotions is having her choose the topic and then seeing what she chooses to focus on vs what I choose to focus on.

In Corinthains, the Apostle Paul is writing to the church in Corinth. Corinth was a bustling city that grew and benefitted financially from being on a busy trade route, but that route also brought with it a lot of sin. The Philosopher Plato and the playwriter Aristophanes wrote about the sexual immorality that Corinth was known for. Corinth was also known for its religious diversity and corruption.

These sins crept into the church that Paul established, causing discord among the congregants and the leaders. While we can apply the lessons Paul teaches about in Corinthians to believers and non-believers alike, the backdrop for this letter is the church in Corinth and its congregation. I included all of chapter 13 above to give further context as to what Paul is talking about in verses 4-7. Some within the church were using their gifts, be it speaking in tongues, blessings of money, or knowledge and understanding, but they were not doing so with love. The people with the blessings were using their gifts with a prideful heart, and those without the blessings were looking upon those who had them with envy. There was a lack of love from both sides, and in chapter 13, Paul lets them know that these blessings will fade, but love will be everlasting. Verse 13 summarizes Paul's message nicely, "Faith, hope, and love abide … the greatest of these is love."

Chapter 13 is one of those chapters where I could devote a month to reading it each day, and each day I would find a way to improve my walk with Christ, and grow in faith, hope, and love. This growth would come in the form of being humbled by ways I can improve while also discovering ways I've fallen short. As a focus for today, I would like to discuss when Paul says in verse 2-3: "But have not love, I am nothing … I gain nothing." He follows these statements by telling us what is and what is not love. I find it very humbling and eye opening to read Paul describing love and saying without it, he is nothing and he gains nothing. "If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned," but if he does it without love, it is for nothing! Powerful. This adds a layer of context to Jesus' quote from Matthew 16, "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?" None of the blessings described in chapter 13 matter when they are not done with love.

According to 1 John 4:8, "Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love." Putting all this together, we can see how doing "good" deeds, without love, apart from God, is of no benefit, because the world will fade and we will die. I remember reading Matthew 5 after I became a believer and passages 46-48 taking hold. To paraphrase, if you love and greet your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the pagans do the same?

It is only through our faith and hope in God and using the blessings He provides us to love others, that we can share the Gospel. We love because He first loved us, and everything apart from God will fade, so when we share with love, we are

sharing our faith with them.

Hers: *By Tonya Theis*

As I prepared the devotion for the month, I started thinking about Mother's Day and my mother. Then I thought about my grandmother and other women in my life - both alive and those who have passed away. This led me to think about all my family and friends, the love I have for them, and the love I show them. This is where my devotion begins.

In the passages above, God's description gives a clear explanation of love. As I've said many times, the Bible has the answer to everything in life. We just need to continue reading, trusting, and applying scripture to our lives. Notice that the passages list many ways love can be experienced in life. We experience love differently depending on the relationships in our lives, but all are meant to reflect God's design for love.

While thinking about these verses, I considered the different ways I've told people I love them. I have told many people in my life, "I love you." It is not just my husband or family members, but my friends as well. When students tell me they love me, I tell them I love them, too. I tell the ones around me that I love them all the time. I especially tell my animals that I love them, although I believe all but two love my husband more than me!

Although there are times when saying "I love you" feels a little awkward with certain people, that is okay. I also tell people I love them in nonverbal ways. While people do need to hear that they are loved, they also need to feel love. Sometimes showing love can take the form of filling the coffee maker for the next day or filling up your spouse's gas tank without them knowing. It can also be donating canned goods to those in need, giving rides to those who need, calling a friend to just check in, respecting others, and treating people as valued members of society. It is the little things in life that show love, and those little things matter.

When I look back at my friends and family members who have passed away, I wonder if I made that love known to them. Did they die knowing they were loved, and that I loved them? That is a humbling thought. I always think there is more time; assuming they know I love them. In the back of my mind, I know people make time for what is important, but there are moments when I've let other priorities get in the way of expressing love. This is what we might call misplaced priorities or, in modern terms, "main character syndrome."

We all go through seasons of misplaced priorities. That can take the form of not responding to emails, phone calls, text messages, or ignoring times of fellowship because you are too busy. When we do this, we must be truthful with ourselves and take accountability for not making time for others. It is okay that you are busy and cannot do more than one thing at a time. This happens. However, when this becomes your mantra, or when you say it to someone all the time, you may be unintentionally communicating that your time or priorities matter more than that person or situation. While this is not necessarily bad, you should be honest with yourself about what you are saying and if this is your intention. If this is not your intention, then you should pray and work towards correcting your actions or attitude.

To bring this back to Mother's Day, but this applies to all holidays and special days, I do not want us to think we only need to honor our family, friends, and relatives only when the calendar lists a holiday to do so. It is great to highlight them on a special day, such as mothers on Mothers' Day, but we need to show love throughout the entire year. Not only should we do acts of kindness, but do not be afraid to tell others, "I love you, and God bless you." Each day is a blessing and gift from God, so be sure to make the most of it and share God's love with others.

Reflections / Questions:

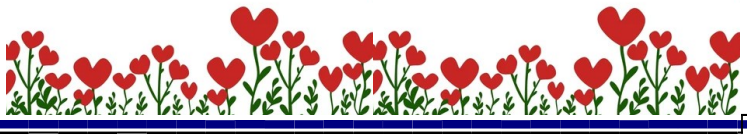
† How can you intentionally show love to others throughout your day?

† Have you been more focused on saying "I love you," or showing it?

† Which type of love (family, friends, strangers, God, self) do you struggle with most?

† Is there someone you need to reconnect with or forgive?

God bless.



First Church of God May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 8:30-9:30 walking group	2
3 8:15am Worship 9:30am donuts/coffee 9:45am Sunday school 10:45am Worship Safety—Scott & Tim J. Justin & Brittney	4 8:30-9:30 walking 10:30-12:30 LifeWise 6:30 Congregational prayer	5 10:30am Lifewise	6 8:30-9:30 walking 10:30-12:30 LifeWise 6pm Bible study	7 9am Bible Study 10:30-12:30 LifeWise	8 8:30-9:30 walking group	9 5:30 Women's Appreciation Dinner
10 8:15am Worship 9:30am donuts/coffee 9:45am Sunday school 10:45am Worship Safety— Chris & Steve Nicole & John K.	11 8:30-9:30 walking 10:30-12:30 LifeWise 6:30 Council meeting GARAGE SALE SET UP	12 10:30am Life-wise	13 8:30-9:30 walking 10:30-12:30 LifeWise 6pm Bible study	14 10:30-12:30 LifeWise (Last day) ->	15 9-4 Garage Sale & Lunch Stand	16 8:30am Men's Breakfast @ Tim's 9-? Garage Sale & Lunch Stand
17 8:15am Worship 9:30am donuts/coffee 9:45am Sunday school 10:45am Worship 3:30pm 4-H Safety— Jim D. & TJ Tracy & Randy	18 8:30-9:30 walking 10:30-12:30 LifeWise 6:30 Congregational prayer	19	20 8:30-9:30 walking 6pm Bible study	21	22 8:30-9:30 walking group	23
24 8:15am Worship 9:30am donuts/coffee 9:45am Sunday school 10:45am Worship Safety— Tim J & Susan Pam & Randy	25 8:30-9:30 walking 10:30-12:30 LifeWise 6:30 Congregational prayer	26	27 8:30-9:30 walking 6pm Bible study	28	29 8:30-9:30 walking group	30 9am Women's Breakfast
31 8:15am Worship 9:30am donuts/coffee 9:45am Sunday school 10:45am Worship Safety— Brad & Kent Sandy S. & Alana	*June 1* *8:30-9:30 walking group* *6:30pm Congregation-al prayer*	*June 2*	*June 3* *8:30-9:30 walking group* *6pm Bible Study*	*June 4*	*June 5* *8:30-9:30 walking group*	*June 6* *12-4PM (gym)* *Dean Hall rental*